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(c) There is a proposal to amend section 3 (5) of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1949, so as to empower the authorized officer to determine tentatively the reasonable rents of all buildings which he may take over and allot for Government purposes, where fair rent has not been fixed under the provisions of the Act. The reasonable rent so fixed by the authorized officer shall be subject to such fair rent as may be determined by the court later.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : May I know, Sir, the basis on which the fair rent is fixed?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMIAH : It is fixed by the Court.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that usually the fair rent fixed by the court or any other agency is in conflict with the prevailing rents in the surroundings which are considerably higher when compared to the fair rent that is fixed which is considerably lower with the result that the landlords are put to great hardship?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMIAH : The fair rent is fixed on the basis of capital involved and other considerations.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Sir, is it a fact that new buildings which are coming up are exempted from fixation of fair rent?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMIAH : Yes, Sir.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : Sir, as there is no rent control in Kanyakumari district, will Government consider extending the Act to that district also?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMIAH : Yes, will consider.

Forest lands in Kanyakumari district

* 260 Q.—SRI T. T. DANIEL : Will the Hon. Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of private forest lands, reserve forest lands and other forest lands in Kanyakumari district;

(b) tax due to Government for the year 1956–57 from private forest lands;

(c) the amount realized by the Government by sale of timber from the forests in the year 1956–57;

(d) whether the Government have sold this year the right of collecting honey from forest lands; and

(e) the amount obtained by such sale during the year 1956–1957?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) There are 3,29,281 acres of private forests, 170 square miles and 252 acres of reserved forests, 22 square miles and 114 acres of other forest lands are proposed for reservation.

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(*b*) Details are not available for Shencottah taluk; in other areas it is nil.

(*c*) The amount realized by the sale of timber is Rs. 3,41,139.

(*d*) Honey was not sold as a separate item, but it was included as one of the items of minor forest produce which were sold in auction with lease period up to 31st December 1957.

(*e*) A sum of Rs. 2,901 was obtained for the collection of minor forest produce including honey.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : Sir, may I know whether this data is as per recent survey or as per old survey in that district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I cannot tell the hon. Member exactly when the survey was made.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Sir, may I know whether rattan and bamboo are also included in minor forest produce?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is there any proposal to nationalize the private forests?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no such proposal with the Government, Sir.

House rent allowance to Government employees in Kanyakumari district

* 261 *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the house rent allowance and other allowances are now being given to all the Government employees in the Kanyakumari district;

(*b*) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) the departments in which the house rent allowance is not given yet?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) The Government employees in the Kanyakumari district were not in receipt of house rent allowance when they were under the former Travancore-Cochin Government. The Madras Scheme of House Rent Allowance has since been extended to them with effect from 1st November 1956. As regards dearness allowance, they draw the allowance at the rates in force under the former Travancore-Cochin State as long as they continue to hold the same posts after the merger. On promotion to higher posts in the Madras State on or after 1st November 1956, the Madras rates of dearness allowance will apply.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Nil.